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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 52nd MEETING

Chairman: Mrs. ESPINOSA (Mexico)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 110: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (continued)

(b) HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS (continued) (A/C.3/51/L.36, L.45, L.46, L.47, L.48/Rev.1, L.50, L.52, L.54, L.56, L.57, L.58, L.60, L.62, L.65, L.70 and L.71)

(c) HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES (continued) (A/C.3/51/L.40, L.43, L.44, L.49, L.55, L.63, L.66, L.68 and L.69)

(d) COMPREHENSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE VIENNA DECLARATION AND PROGRAMME OF ACTION (continued) (A/C.3/51/L.67)

(e) REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (continued) (A/C.3/51/L.42)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that she would suspend the meeting until all the documents for consideration had been made available to delegations.

The meeting was suspended at 10.45 a.m. and resumed at 11.25 a.m.

2. The CHAIRMAN said that some delegations had expressed concern that changes made by editors in certain draft resolutions had affected the delicate balance in the wording. The correct version of the draft resolutions in question would be reflected in the Committee's report to the General Assembly.

3. Ms. NEWELL (Secretary of the Committee) said that, with the exception of draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.39, none of the draft resolutions before the Committee had any programme budget implications.

Draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.56 on the situation of human rights in Cambodia

4. Ms. KERR (Australia), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.56 on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by Finland, Honduras, Monaco and the United States of America, said that it was based on the consensus language of previous General Assembly and Commission on Human Rights resolutions and took into account the conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary-General's Special Representative for human rights in Cambodia. The international community was committed to assisting Cambodia in its efforts to promote and protect the human rights of its people. Although there had been improvements in the situation in that country, the international community acknowledged that the task of ensuring the observance of human rights in Cambodia was enormous and would take some time.

5. The CHAIRMAN said that the Netherlands also wished to sponsor the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.60 on a culture of peace

6. Mr. CASTAÑEDA-CORNEJO (El Salvador), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.60 on behalf of the sponsors, said that Mauritania, Micronesia, the Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation had also become sponsors. The transdisciplinary project entitled "Towards a Culture of Peace" aimed at finding new ways to promote human rights, democracy, tolerance, dialogue and reconciliation and to prevent violence and conflict. Positive results had been achieved in national programmes undertaken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Burundi, the Congo, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mozambique, the Philippines, Rwanda and Somalia, where they had been planned and were being implemented with the participation of all parties concerned.

7. The draft resolution, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Director-General of UNESCO, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on its implementation and on the progress of educational activities within the framework of the transdisciplinary project, including the preparation of elements for a draft provisional declaration and programme of action. The sponsors hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

8. The CHAIRMAN said that Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, the Marshall Islands, Mauritania, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Togo had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.62 on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights

9. Mr. ROLAND (Belgium) introduced draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.62 on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by Australia, Japan, Portugal and Ukraine. Since 1982, Belgium had emphasized repeatedly the importance of enhanced cooperation between regional and international institutions concerned with the universal promotion of human rights. International and regional activities in that field should be mutually reinforcing.

10. The draft resolution welcomed the close cooperation of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights in the organization of regional and subregional activities for the promotion and protection of human rights, requested the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen exchanges between the United Nations and regional intergovernmental organizations dealing with human rights and invited States in areas where regional arrangements in the field of human rights did not yet exist to consider concluding such arrangements. The sponsors hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted without a vote.

11. The CHAIRMAN said that the Czech Republic, Lithuania and Togo had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.65 on human rights and unilateral coercive measures

12. Mr. REZVANI (Islamic Republic of Iran), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.65 on behalf of the sponsors, said that the reason for the draft

resolution was the devastating impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights in developing countries. The General Assembly could not remain silent at the gross and systematic violations of the economic, social and cultural rights of the populations of developing countries caused by such measures, which were in flagrant violation of international law.

13. The draft resolution urged all States to refrain from adopting or implementing any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, in particular those of a coercive nature, and requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to give urgent consideration to the resolution in his annual report to the General Assembly. In view of the importance of the issue, the sponsors hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

14. Mr. XU Haichao (China) and Mr. AL-HUMAIMIDI (Iraq) said that they also wished to sponsor the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.71 on the strengthening of United Nations action in the human rights field through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity

15. Mr. REYES RODRIGUEZ (Cuba), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.71 on behalf of the sponsors, said that it reaffirmed the importance of ensuring the universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of the consideration of human rights issues, reiterated that all peoples had the right freely to determine, without external interference, their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development, invited Member States to consider adopting measures to achieve further progress in international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and requested the Commission on Human Rights to consider further proposals for the strengthening of United Nations action in the human rights field. A revised text of the draft resolution, incorporating certain changes proposed by a group of delegations, had been submitted to the Secretariat. The Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ghana, Lesotho and the Sudan had joined the sponsors, who hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

16. The CHAIRMAN said that Burundi, Rwanda and Togo also wished to sponsor the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.63 on the situation of human rights in Cuba

17. Mr. SCASSA (United States of America), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.63 on behalf of the sponsors, said that Bulgaria and the Republic of Moldova had also become sponsors. The draft resolution sought to address the serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms identified in the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cuba. It called upon the Government of Cuba to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur, urged it to ensure freedom of expression and assembly and the freedom to demonstrate peacefully and called upon it to carry out the recommendations contained in the interim report of the Special Rapporteur to bring its observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Cuba into conformity with international standards. The draft resolution had the support

of a large number of delegations and he hoped that it would receive even broader support.

18. The CHAIRMAN said that The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.66 on rape and abuse of women in the areas of armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia

19. Mr. KHAN (Pakistan), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the original sponsors and Costa Rica, Djibouti, Nepal, New Zealand, Singapore, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the United States of America, said that it addressed the egregious practice of rape and abuse of women in the former Yugoslavia, in particular the use of rape as a weapon of war in pursuance of the policy of ethnic cleansing. Rape used in the conduct of an armed conflict was a war crime and, under certain circumstances, a crime against humanity. The draft resolution called upon States to take measures for the protection of women and children against such acts and to bring the perpetrators to justice.

20. The beginning of the sixth preambular paragraph had been amended to read "Convinced that the heinous practice of rape, in fulfilling the policy of ethnic cleansing, constitutes ..." and the phrase ", including by providing full access" had been added at the end of paragraph 10, after the word "Europe". The sponsors hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

21. The CHAIRMAN said that Afghanistan, Andorra, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Liechtenstein, Mauritania, Panama, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Solomon Islands and Yemen had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.68 on the situation of human rights in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)

22. Mr. KUEHL (United States of America), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the original sponsors and Chile, Kuwait, Malaysia, Monaco, New Zealand and Senegal, said that the countries named in the draft resolution were in the middle of a long journey which everyone hoped would take them to peace, respect for human rights, ethnic reconciliation and normalization of relations. His Government had been pleased to play an important role in starting those countries down that road.

23. A number of minor revisions would be introduced when the Committee took action on the draft resolution, which his delegation believed would be adopted by consensus.

24. The CHAIRMAN said that Australia, Canada, Costa Rica and San Marino had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.69 on the situation of human rights in Myanmar

25. Ms. NEWELL (Secretary of the Committee) said that the beginning of paragraph 17 should be amended to read: "Requests the Secretary-General to

continue his discussions with the Government of Myanmar in order to assist in the implementation of the present resolution and in its efforts for national reconciliation and to report ...".

26. Mr. OSVALD (Sweden), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the original sponsors and Monaco, said that the resolution deplored the continued violations of human rights in Myanmar, including extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, torture, arbitrary arrest and detention and deaths in custody, as well as severe restrictions on freedoms of opinions, expression, assembly and association.

27. He welcomed the assurances given recently to the Committee by the representative of Myanmar that the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights would be given an opportunity to visit that country.

Draft resolution A/C.3/51/L.67 on the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

28. Mr. THEUERMANN (Austria), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the original sponsors and Albania, Belarus, Costa Rica, Luxembourg and Panama, drew attention to the fact that Chile had been erroneously omitted from the list of sponsors, and said that paragraph 7 had been deleted.

29. The draft resolution was based upon the conviction, expressed repeatedly by the General Assembly, that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action must be translated into effective action by States, the competent United Nations organs and organizations and other organizations concerned, including non-governmental organizations.

30. The CHAIRMAN said that Croatia, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, France, Kenya, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, San Marino, Solomon Islands and Zambia had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.